JFK Assassination

Alerted Miami Tape Officials

News 2/3/67.

By BILL BARRY
Reporter of The Miami News

The last sound on the tape is the sound of a slamming door.

It is a sound as loud and final as death itself. The men who slammed the door had just finished talking about the coming death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

It was Nov. 9, 1963 -- two weeks before the President was assassinated.

The door slammed shut on the Miami apartment in which the men had been talking. Sitting on the refrigerator -- hidden --was the Miami Police Intelligence tape recorder which had taken down the assassination conversation.

During the conversation, a State's Rights agitator told a Miami Police informer that Kennedy would be killed with a high-powered rifle from an office building. He said somebody would be picked up quickly, just to throw the public off.

He said that Kennedy knew he was a marked man.

The bugged conversation was arranged for one primary reason --John Kennedy was coming to Miami in nine days. The Miami Police were not about to have him killed here.

The Secret Service and the FBI were informed of the alleged plot to kill the President.

It happened that the FBI was then investigating Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas. The President was due in Dallas Nov. 22. There was to be a motorcade through town on the traditional motorcade route.

At the end of that route is the Texas Book Depository.

On Nov. 1, and Nov. 5, FBI agents went to the house where Marina Oswald was living apart from her husband. The agents talked to Mrs. Ruth Paine who had taken in Marina Oswald.

Ruth Paine told the FBI that Lee Harvey Oswald was working in the Texas Book Depository.

On Nov. 9, Oswald wrote to the Russian Embassy in Washington and said: "The FBI has visited us here in Dallas. . ."

That was the same day the tape was made.

Miami Police had a hit of a sticky problem in getting the State's Rights agitator to talk about assassination for its tape recorder. The purpose of his visit here was ostensibly to talk to Miami "patriots" about forming a chapter of his State's Rights organization.

He was still feeling out the police informer whom he had first met only four months before. He came down from his Georgia home to talk about organizing, not assassination.

The informer led him on a long, circuitous route to Kennedy. And then he told about the plot. He said it was being planned by the hard-core underground -- the terrorists of the group. He stipulated that they were acting as individuals, and not as the agents of the political party.

The informer tried to persuade him to say where the assassination would be done.

The informer said: "If you may have figured out the office building, and all, I don't know how them Secret Service agents cover all them office buildings, or anywhere he is going. Do you know whether they do that or not?"

The State's Rights man said: "Well, if they have any suspicion they do that, of course. But without suspicion chances are that they wouldn't."

He told about a place in Washington where it could be done from. But then he said: "Of course, it is the wrong time of year. But you take pleasant weather; he comes out on the veranda, and somebody could be in a hotel room across the way there, and pick him off . . ."

It was pleasant weather in Dallas. And there was the office building. The Warren Commission said there was Oswald waiting. The commission also said that if the Secret Service had fired at the first shot that hit that day, Kennedy would have been saved.

The Warren Commission said there were at least five seconds between the first shot which hit kennedy in the throat and the second shot which killed him.

The Secret Service did not react quickly enough, the commission said.

And that is one of the reasons why the Miami News learned about the tape made in Miami. Last November the News sent a reporter to Dallas to write some stories about "the city where the President" was killed. The stories also told about the people who were raising doubts about the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

The stories were circulated in several sections of the country. One man who read them, knew of the tape and told the News about it.

He called, he said: "Because the FBI and the Secret Service knew about the threat to the President.

They knew how it was to be done and they didn't protect him [illegible]

Dallas is known [illegible] Soutwest hate capital of Dixie. It is the home of the Right Wing. And ever since September, when the Dallas daily newspapers told the people Kennedy was coming, the hostility against the President was rising.

All the while, Oswald's rifle was sitting in Mrs. Paine's garage. She did not tell the FBI that he was there. She later said she didn't know about it.

After the assassination, the man who had done the talking in Miami got scared. He figured that he knew who had done it. And he figured that they knew that he knew.

Texas editor, Penn Jones, who has been chasing clues to the assassination for three years now says: "I think it was planned in Houston with operating headquarters in Miami, Louisiana, Fort Worth and Dallas."

Three weeks after the assassination, the man who did the talking in Miami, went on a trip which included stops in Louisiana, Fort Worth, and Dallas.